



Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

International Committee January 2004

[This version scanned from Ian's handout in Florida, with small corrections by Jennifer highlighted]

1. Background

In June 2003, the Council for Waterbird Conservation for the Americas was established. One of the decisions taken by the Council members during its first meeting in 2003, was the formation of the International Committee (referred to in this document as the "Committee") whose main goal is to help facilitate the implementation of the Plan internationally (formally -outside of Canada and the United States).

During this first meeting, participants discussed a range of possible ways in which this Committee could foster the advancement of the Plan in a range wide manner and especially how to engage regions in Latin America and the Caribbean. This included translation and promotion of the Plan to a largely Spanish speaking audience, undertaking a GAP analysis of relevant activities underway, and engagement in key biodiversity conservation events in the hemisphere.

As part of a broader regional effort to expand the scope of the Plan, representatives from the Council attended key events where they were able to further advance the promotion of the Plan. This included meetings of the Waterbird Society, the Neotropical Ornithological Congress and SCSCB in Brazil, Chile and Tobago respectively. Additional efforts were made to advance the work of the Plan in the United States and southern South America.

Critical to advance any conservation plan is the need to underpin it with a more detailed work plan. The following document outlines elements of a three year workplan. This document describes the vision, objectives and action items of the International Committee for the period 2004-2007. It also serves as the basis for a NMBCA proposal in 2004.

2. Objectives and Action Items

The Committee has identified four objectives and several key action items important for advancing the Plan. In no particular order, these objectives and suggested action items should form the basis for the International Committee's 2004-2007 Work Plan.

Objective one: Document the current state of information on the activities that are or may impact waterbird conservation in the hemisphere.

Action items:

- Summarize each country's key domestic and formal and informal international bird conservation legislation/ instruments and concomitant regulations and gaps therein.
- Describe relevant NGO and government programs/ initiatives/ activities concerning waterbird conservation, management and research.
- Describe each country's organizational structure for bird conservation, management and research.
- List those birds regularly breeding, wintering and staging in each country that migrate beyond the country and document their approximate numbers, conservation status, and coverage in international and domestic legislation and agreements.

Objective two: Determine the status of all waterbird species and their habitats in the hemisphere.

Action items:

- Identify those waterbirds of conservation concern (maybe even propose a list of "Americas Birds of Conservation Concern/ ABCCs").
- Map key breeding, wintering and migratory staging areas for waterbirds. .List protected areas relevant



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to waterbird conservation in each country.

Objective three: Identify resources to implement international of the Plan.

Action items:

- Determine costs of activities associated with this workplan and coordinate with both the Resources and Fundraising, and the Regional Planning Committee to assist in funding opportunities.
- Identify and contact groups/ individuals active in biodiversity/ bird/ waterbird/ wetland conservation, and establish strategic links with key organizations and individuals capable of advancing the Plan.

Objective four: Raise international awareness of waterbird conservation issues throughout the Americas.

Action items:

- Coordinate with and assist the communication and other Council Committees to translate the Waterbird Plan into Spanish and develop a web site for the Plan.
- Organize or attend key meetings/ events/ functions to promote and encourage involvement in the Plan.

3. Expected outputs:

- Baseline document summarizing state of the knowledge of on-going initiatives relevant to waterbirds in the Americas (protected areas, legislation).
- A preliminary list of priority sites for all waterbirds identified in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Budget for International workplan 2004-2006.
- Key donors identified and proposals submitted to fund specific activities of workplan (in coordination with the Fundraising Committee).
- Participation at key events important for advancing waterbird conservation in the Americas.
- Key groups active in waterbird conservation identified and strategic links established.
- Action at key sites identified and supported.

4. Coordination -Role of the International Committee

The proposed role of the Committee is to provide a forum to coordinate and promote a range-wide approach to waterbird conservation in the Americas through:

- Linking and coordinating with other similar conservation initiatives;
- Identifying tools and processes to enhance waterbird conservation;
- Promoting the development of regional plans;
- Identify, promote and evaluate priority projects in and throughout the Americas; and
- Informing Council of international issues and events.
- Translated copies (in Spanish) of the Plan produced and distributed widely.

Council Members on the Committee:

Eric Carey (SCSCB, Bahamas)
Mauricio Cervantes (CIPAMEX, Mexico)
Ian Davidson (BirdLife, Ecuador)
Jim Kushlan (Smithsonian, U.S.)
Ghisselle Alvarado Quesado (Natural History Museum of Costa Rica)
Gerald McKeating (Private, Canada)
Eric Mellink (University, Mexico)

Melanie Stienkemp (Wetlands International, U.S.)

Kent Wohl (USFWS, U.S.)

Rosabel Miro (Panama Audubon, Panama)

Ann Sutton (TNC, Jamaica)

Bob Milko (CWS, Canada)

Jack Capp (US, Forest Service)

Bill Howard (US, Wildlife Habitat Council)

Additional Members:

list

Recruiting new members from the Latin American and Caribbean region to help advance the international aspects of the Plan.

Members will meet several times a year (no less that twice) and will meet one day prior to the annual meeting of



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the Council.

5. Resourcing the Work Plan

Before any efforts can be made to ascertain the costs of carrying out this Work Plan, agreement on the key activities is needed. However, resourcing will be necessary to advance efforts of the Plan; both technical and financial.

6. Evaluating the Plan

This Work Plan will serve as an excellent template for assessing progress, opportunities and challenges arising, areas requiring greater investment, and if needed, redirection of efforts. A Log Framework Analysis (LFA) is a useful tool for identifying measurable targets based on identified objectives and associated activities, and may be a useful tool for developing the Work Plan.

7. Miscellaneous Issues

Geographic Focus: although the focus will be the entire hemisphere -a range-wide approach -the workplan for the first three years will target action in Latin American and Caribbean Region (LAC.)

Alliances: how are we going to ensure compatibility with other wetland initiatives including a recently released draft for a water bird conservation plan for the Americas that includes waterfowl and shorebirds?

Internal coordination: how can we ensure maximum coordination with other Committees created to advance other aspects of the Plan?

Implementing: who will coordinate the implementation...a Secretariat? An NGO? A consortium of groups? An individual?